

WALL STREET EXPLOSION SOLVED; BOMB IN BUILDING TRADE GRAFT SET IN REVENGE UPON BRINDELL

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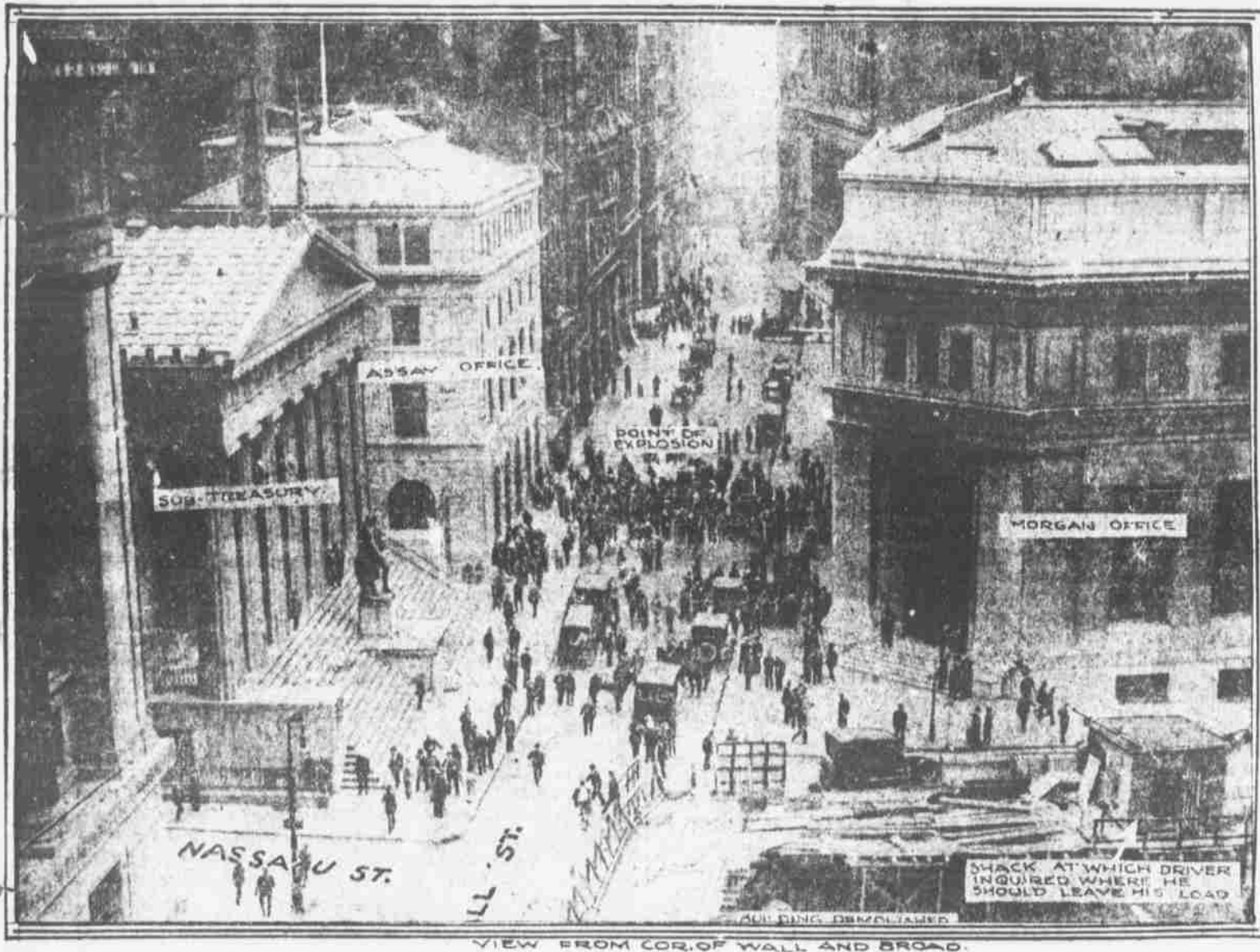
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Scene of the Wall St. Explosion That Killed 39 Persons; Shack in Foreground at Which Bomb Was to Be Set Off



MAYOR DEFENDS ACTION OF ADMINISTRATION ON STAND AT GRAFT INQUIRY

His Memory Poor as to Date of
John T. Hettrick's
Letter.

READS FOR TWO HOURS.

Had Praised Undermyer for Aid
—Lawyers Organized for
Action.

Mayor Hylan, spent nearly two hours continuously today reading for the Lockwood Committee investigating building graft letters tending to establish that he was alive to conditions that have city contracts with special reference to the switch around on the Court House. At the resumption of the hearing after luncheon, Mr. Undermyer took the Mayor in hand and promptly began to rebuke the former's conduct.

Mr. Undermyer laid special emphasis on the fact that the Hettrick letter to the Mayor was given out after the papers in Hettrick's office had been seized. He questioned the Mayor to emphasize the fact that it is a lawyer's trick to indulge in saying statements and writing letters so as to make a case which would put him

in the light of protecting the public interest.

The Mayor was somewhat chary on all the questions and showed lack of memory at points.

The hearing was held in the room of the Board of Estimate, which is much smaller than the Aldermanic Chamber, where previous hearings have been had. The Board of Aldermen was using its own room. The room was closely packed. Every inch of standing room was filled. There were moans in the corridor outside unable to get in.

There was a ripple of applause when the Mayor entered the room. It was promptly hushed by sergeants-at-arms.

The Mayor was allowed to "have his way," so he stood as he testified. Corporation Counsel John P. O'Brien was not permitted to present to the committee the offer of the cooperation of the Board of Estimate. Senator Kaplan protested against the turning away of Mr. O'Brien.

After the Mayor had been sworn Mr. Undermyer said:

"In order that there may be no

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SWANN AND U.S. GOVERNMENT ACT ON EVENING WORLD'S SOLUTION OF BOMB EXPLOSION

District Attorney to Call Grand
Jury on Proof Crime Was
Due to Labor Feud.

POLICE HEADS SILENT.

Department of Justice to Send
More Men Here to Begin
New Inquiry.

District Attorney Swann acted immediately this afternoon after reading The Evening World's proofs that the Wall Street explosion of Sept. 16 was the climax of a feud in the ranks of labor disorganized by the graft

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and exploitation of dishonest labor leaders. The Department of Justice announced it was basing a new independent investigation of the accident on The Evening World's disclosures and had already ordered men to New York from the Washington headquarters of the Investigating Bureau. New York Police Headquarters went into a Chinese silence.

"I am very much impressed with the explanation of the explosion which The Evening World has published," said Judge Swann. "It is the first version of the catastrophe which checks at every point with the scattered facts already collected by investigators."

Judge Swann said the Extraordinary Grand Jury which was impaneled to investigate the explosion and fix the criminal blame for the loss of life was still in existence, and that he would call it together at once. He asked The Evening World to co-operate with him in getting the new facts and phases of the investigation before the jury, and was assured that everything this newspaper has learned would be put in its possession.

Judge Swann explained that a great quantity of evidence, in the form of disconnected facts of no especial importance in themselves had been collected by the Grand Jury, which might prove to be of the utmost importance if woven together

NOT ANARCHISTS, BUT MEN BLACKJACKED OUT OF JOBS

Members of Regular Union Kicked Off the Stock Exchange Annex and Every Other Building Work in New York—Half Starved by Months of Idleness, Appeals to Fellow Unionists and to the Mayor Unheeded—Frenzied Workmen or Sympathizers Planned Explosion to Injure or Kill at Noon Hour 85 Brindell Workers in the Stock Exchange Annex—Housewreckers' Union, as a Union, Not Responsible; Work of Individuals.

Before the dust clouds had fairly settled after the explosion at Wall and Broad Streets between J. P. Morgan & Co.'s Building and the United States Assay Office Sept. 16, 1920, The Evening World began an independent investigation. It has not flagged. It has now resulted in disclosures in which the interests of justice demand that the general public should share.

The official investigations by Federal and city authority, the score of private agencies hired by private citizens and financial institutions have devoted themselves to a search for fanatical assassins seeking a shining mark in a crowd in which prominent persons were almost certain to be present or to force the proof of a great anarchist or revolutionary terrorist conspiracy. These investigations, bringing into view countless details of facts, have struck a dead centre in their progress.

The Evening World here presents proof that 1,800 men, nearly all foreign born, sober, industrious, efficient and well-disciplined—House Wreckers' Local No. 95, known recently also as "The Polish Union" and "Zaranko's Union"—have within a space of eighteen months been subjected to an amazing conspiracy of greed and injustice, and the explosion was the culmination of this tyranny. The building trades graft was responsible for the crime. The Evening World does not charge the union, as a union, with responsibility. It was the work of individuals, possibly inside the union, possibly the work of sympathizers.

Further proofs are presented that the wrath and resentment of these working men and their fellows who knew of their tragic losing fight to avert vagrancy and starvation in days of overflowing labor opportunity, was centred not only on their arch oppressor Robert P. Brindell, dictator of the Labor Trades Council, but upon housewrecking contractors.

The middle of September. At that time their feeling against Brindell-organized men was at its bitterest. Their last resource for an orderly way out of their straits had failed. Their appeals to the city authorities, to affiliated unions, to the American Federation of Labor and to fair play among the contractors had failed. They had learned they had not even the legal right to declare a general strike in the building industry. At that time Albert A. Volk was carrying on the demolition of the buildings on the site of the Stock Exchange Building Annex at Broad and Wall Streets.

There are presented additional reasons for believing that violently inclined acquaintances and associates, in angry sympathy with the wickedly exploited and tormented men, undertook to wreak vengeance on the Brindell men.

BUILDING GRAFT CAUSED EXPLOSION.

A ramshackle wagon with a red underbody, drawn by a scrawny bay horse, worked slowly through Wall Street towards Broad from William just before noon Sept. 16. In the wagon was a miscellaneous load of boxes and barrels and large metal cans. The driver of the wagon was a big stolid Pole; he had been told to deliver the stuff on the wagon to Albert A. Volk and Company, the contractors on the Stock Exchange Annex site, before 12 o'clock. He did not know what was in his load.

In the wagon was a monster bomb of dynamite, about which

Regular Union Men Blackjacked and Injured Until Forced to Quit to Save Lives—Within Three Weeks, Attempt Made to Assassinate Foreman Who Could Identify Owner and Driver of the Bomb Wagon—Amazing Record of Oppression by Brindell Agents—The Police, U. S. Secret Service and Detective Agencies Now on the Hunt—District Attorney Swann Takes Up the Revelations Made by The Evening World.

broken pieces of cast iron sashweights had been packed. A clockwork device to set off the bomb had been adjusted to do its work at two minutes after 12 o'clock. The dynamite had been stolen from the stores of wrecking and excavating contractors; the sashweights had been gathered from the junk pile of a building wrecker's yard.

The driver could not go with his wagon directly to the openings in the high board fence which surrounded the littered site of the proposed new building. Under police traffic rules he stopped in front of the Assay Office, just east of the United States Sub-Treasury and out of the swirl of vehicle and pedestrian traffic at the Broad and Wall Street crossing. Even Contractor Volk's trucks constantly arriving through Wall Street were subject to this regulation.

Leaving his wagon, as was also the rule for the drivers of all trucks and delivery carts approaching the demolition and excavation work, the driver was sent aloft across the crowded crossing to find out where he was desired to place his load. This regulation reduced the time by which the street was to be obstructed by wagons waiting to be unloaded or loaded.

DRIVER LEAVES WAGON NEAR NEW BUILDING.

Leaving his horse and wagon behind him, the driver crossed to the corner where there was a rough contractor's shack half way down the partly demolished old building which Volk's men were tearing down. The shack was on the heavy timbered bridge or abutment built over the sidewalk to protect pedestrians from falling pieces of glass, stone, brick and plaster as the walls above were pulled to pieces.

Nobody paid any attention to the driver. He was somewhat bewildered. He was in the way of men preparing to quit work for the noon hour and, though he did not know it, the load he was trying to deliver had not been ordered and was not expected by the foreman and watchmen; they were pestered by his questions. He could not tell them what he had nor from whom it came. His only instructions were to "deliver it on the job at Broad and Wall Streets" and "get it there before 12 o'clock." So they could not tell him whether to back up his cart at the New Street or the Broad Street side of the lot. They brushed him aside and told him to ask somebody else.

Their indifference and incivility to him saved that driver's life and their own. For, less than two minutes after twelve, when the whistle on the engine down in the hole had shrilled its signal for the lunch hour and the eighty-five workers for Volk were swarming up to the street from the cellar and awaiting down from the few low walls on which they were still working with crowbars and sledge hammers, there came a flash and a glare and the deadly blast of the great detonation which shook half a city.

The load on the driver's wagon had blown up. The ticking machine in the centre of the dynamite and the broken sash weights had done its work.

Twenty-five persons were lying dead in the streets.

One hundred and fifty men and women were lying stunned and broken on the sidewalks, in the middle of the streets, in offices. Of these fourteen were so hurt that they died of their injuries, increasing the number of fatalities to thirty-nine. Damage to buildings amounting to \$3,000,000 had been done.

Pieces of sash weights had been hurled about Wall and Broad Streets like shrapnel balls from the head of a 75-centimetre shell. Fronts of stores had been blown in as though made of cardboard. Great chunks were knocked from stone cornices high in air. There was not a pane of glass left whole in any building in line of the impact of concussion for three blocks in either direction. The walls of the Assay Office and of the J. P. Morgan & Co. offices, just opposite, were pitted and ripped by bits of steel. An automobile had been overturned and partly burned by the blast of flame which rode the instantaneously expanding ring of the explosion.

The bay horse which had been drawing the ramshackle wagon with the red underbody lay slewed in a heap, thirty feet from the spot where he had been left to await the return of the driver; his hind-